

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6708

BILL NUMBER: HB 1064

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 23, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Burial of Veterans.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Reske

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires that a funeral director and crematory authority make a reasonable effort to determine whether a deceased person, whose remains have been submitted to a funeral establishment for final disposition by cremation, is any of the following: (1) a veteran; (2) the spouse of a veteran; or (3) the dependent child of a veteran. If the funeral director or crematory authority cannot determine with certainty the deceased person's status and there is not an authorizing agent, the funeral director or crematory authority may allow certain veterans organizations to have access to the cremated remains and information regarding the deceased person to be used to determine if the deceased person qualifies as a veteran or veteran's spouse or dependent. The bill also allows a funeral director to turn over unclaimed cremated remains of a deceased person who qualifies as a veteran or veteran's spouse or dependent to a veterans organization for final disposition. The bill provides immunity for crematory authorities and funeral directors for acts and omissions while complying with the law concerning cremated veterans.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill may increase the number of identified deceased veterans in the state who would be eligible for interment in the Indiana Veteran Memorial Cemetery. If this bill increases the number of individuals who are buried in the Indiana Veteran Memorial Cemetery, state expenditures are expected to increase between approximately \$200 and \$600 per interment.

Additional Information: The Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs reports veterans, surviving spouses of veterans, and dependents of veterans are eligible for burial in the Indiana Veteran Memorial Cemetery. For each veteran that is interred in the Indiana Veteran Memorial Cemetery, the state receives \$300 from the

federal Veterans' Affairs Administration (VA). Additionally, the state receives \$100 for the setting of a headstone for some veterans and their spouses from select counties. Grave markers are provided at no cost from the federal VA. These amounts are applied to the cost for each interment.

The cost of each interment varies between approximately \$600 and \$900, depending on the selection of burial container. An outer burial container costs approximately \$400 each and an oversized burial container costs approximately \$700. The cost for equipment rental, fuel, sod, topsoil, and lowering device is estimated to be approximately \$200.

The total maximum estimated cost per veteran to the state is between approximately \$200 and \$600.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Tom Applegate, Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.